

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented remote device monitoring system, comprising:

a local monitoring device configured (1) to collect information from a device connected to a first network using a network management protocol, and (2) to send the information to a monitor connected to a second network via a wide area network using a protocol; and

the monitor configured to receive the information using the protocol and to store the information in a digital repository connected to the second network,

wherein the local monitoring device is configured to automatically request the information from the device, without receiving an any instructions from the monitor requesting that the information be collected from the device.

2. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the information comprises at least one of status information corresponding to the device and configuration information corresponding to the device.

3. (Original) The system of claim 2, wherein the device comprises a printer.

4. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 2, wherein the status information comprises at least one of a low paper indicator, a no paper indicator, a low toner indicator, a no toner indicator, a door open indicator, a jammed indicator, an offline indicator, and a service-requested indicator.

5. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 2, wherein the configuration information comprises at least one of a manufacturer of the device, a model of the device, a serial number of the device, a media access control address, an Internet protocol address, a company name, a street address, a city, a state, a postal code, a physical location of the device, a contact person for the device, a phone number for the contact person, and an e-mail address for the contact person.

6. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein at least a portion of the wide area network comprises the Internet.

7. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the protocol comprises at least one of a simple mail transfer protocol and an Internet mail access protocol.

8. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein at least a portion of at least one of the first network and the second network comprises an intranet.

9. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the digital repository comprises a database.

10. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the local monitoring device is further configured to store the collected information in a first digital repository connected to the first network, and to retrieve the information from the first digital repository.

11. (Original) The system of claim 10, wherein the digital repository comprises a database.

12. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the local monitoring device comprises a computer readable medium encoded with processor readable instructions that comprise at least one of a dynamic link library, a static link library, a script, a JAVA class, a C++ class, and a C library routine.

13. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the network management protocol comprises a simple network management protocol.

14. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the remote monitor is further configured to store the information in the digital repository through an open database connectivity interface.

15. (Previously Presented ) The system of claim 10, wherein the local monitoring device is further configured to store the information in the first digital repository through an open database connectivity interface.

16. (Currently Amended) A method for remotely monitoring network devices, comprising:

collecting, by a local monitoring device, information from a device connected to a first network using a network management protocol;

sending, by the local monitoring device, the information collected in the collecting step to a monitor connected to a second network via a wide area network using a protocol;

receiving, by the monitor, the information sent in the sending step; and

storing the information received in the receiving step in a digital repository connected to the second network,

wherein the collecting step comprises automatically requesting the information from the device, without receiving an-any instructions from the monitor requesting that the information be collected from the device.

17. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the information comprises at least one of status information corresponding to the device and configuration information corresponding to the device.

18. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the device comprises a printer.

19. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein at least a portion of the wide area network comprises the Internet.

20. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the network management protocol comprises a simple network management protocol.

21. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the protocol comprises at least one of a simple mail transfer protocol and an Internet access protocol.

22. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the digital repository comprises a database.

23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, further comprising:

storing the collected information collected in the collecting step in a first digital repository; and

retrieving the information stored in the step of storing the collected information from the first digital repository.

24. (Original) The method of claim 23, wherein the first digital repository comprises a database.

25. (Currently Amended) A computer program product, comprising:

a computer storage medium; and

a computer program code mechanism embedded in the computer storage medium for causing a computer to remotely monitor a device connected to a first network with a monitor connected to a second network, the computer program code mechanism comprising:

a first computer code device configured to collect information from the device over the first network using a network management protocol, and

a second computer code device configured to send the collected information to the monitor via a wide area network using a protocol, wherein the first computer code device is configured to automatically request the information from the device, without receiving ~~an~~any instructions from the monitor requesting that the information be collected from the device.

26. (Original) The computer program product of claim 25, wherein the information comprises at least one of status information corresponding to the device and configuration information corresponding to the device.

27. (Original) The computer program product of claim 25, wherein the device comprises a printer.

28. (Original) The computer program product of claim 25, wherein at least a portion of the wide area network comprises the Internet.

29. (Original) The computer program product of claim 25, wherein the network management protocol comprises a simple network management protocol.

30. (Original) The computer program product of claim 25, wherein the protocol comprises at least one of a simple mail transfer protocol and an Internet access protocol.

31. (Canceled)

32. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 25, wherein the computer program code mechanism further comprises:

a third computer code device configured to store the information collected by the first computer code device in a first digital repository; and

a fourth computer code device configured to retrieve the information from the first digital repository.

33. (Original) The computer program product of claim 32, wherein the first digital repository comprises a database.

34. (Currently Amended) A system for remotely monitoring network devices, comprising:

means for collecting information from a device connected to a first network using a network management protocol;

means for sending the information collected by the means for collecting to a monitor connected to a second network via a wide area network using a protocol;

means for receiving, by the monitor, the information sent by the means for sending; and

means for storing the information received by the means for receiving in a digital repository connected to the second network,

wherein the means for collecting comprises means for automatically requesting the information from the device, without receiving an-any instructions from the monitor requesting that the information be collected from the device.

35. (Original) The system of claim 34, wherein:

the network management protocol is a simple network management protocol; and

the protocol is at least one of a simple mail transfer protocol and an Internet mail access protocol.